

Snake Plissken: Analysis of the Main Character in Escape from New York, LA

The Silent Serpent - An American Hero Played by Kurt Russell



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Literature has constantly been a reminder of the true potential that lies within all of us, just waiting to emerge at the first sign of danger. Readers of all ages have amerced themselves in stories depicting

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these characteristics time and time again as noble individuals. Contrary to traditional works of non-fiction, one man has defied the odds in his pursuit of solitude and personal freedom, his name, is S.D. Bob Plissken.

A mission of paramount importance to the future of the United States became the responsibility of one uninterested man, Snake Plissken. Code named, The Sword of Damocles, a doomsday device of devastating potential was in the hands of a Peruvian terrorist called Cuvero Jones. The

deadly technology is the controller for a series of satellites equipped with an EMP, which has the capability of destroy one or every power source on the earth. Recently, the gestapo like group called The United States Police force, captured one of the "most" notorious criminals in American history, S. D. Bob Plissken. After the USPF's failed attempt to retrieve the doomsday device, Plissken is covertly injected with the Putoxin 7 virus. United States President and several USPF leaders extort the furious criminal to steal back the box within ten hours in exchange for the antidote.

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Snake Plissken is played by American actor Kurt Russel in the films Escape from LA and Escape from New York. Source Wikipedia

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Snake attempts several times to further his goal, unfortunately efforts generally end in capture by various forces. In the end, he eludes every foe with only superficial injuries. The main character is a

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deeply embittered individual with a demeanor to match his disposition. His quiet nature generally builds to the notorious character as well. Snake was once one of the most famous war [heroes](#) for his bravery and talent in the special forces. Upon arriving home a Deeply troubled Plissken is pulled into emotional turmoil when he discovers the government he fought to protect, has arrested his family for "moral crimes" against the United States, and liquidated all the families assets. At that moment he shed his allegiance to the government and preferred to be called Snake,

rather than Plissken.

Appearances can be misleading, Snake is indisputably a ruthless criminal but buried deep within the embittered exterior en-lies a strong moral conscious. Instincts tell Plissken to be a helpful and trusting individual, but his experiences normally advise otherwise. At one point during Escape from L.A. Snake attempts to flee the sinister clutches of a twisted criminal known as "the Surgeon General of Beverley Hills." As Plissken is fleeing the facility a desperate call for help comes from a captured woman named Taslima. Here a brief battle commences between his conscious and brain. Ultimately he chooses to save the young woman despite the potential complication she may be in his mission. However unlike the majority of contemporary literature there is no happy ending between the two, because Taslima is shot in the back shortly after she expresses her love towards her rescuer.



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Escape from LA concludes with the introduction of a new yet familiar character. Our anti-hero meets a past partner in crime named "Carjack" Malone. The meeting is a bitter sweet event for Plissken. On one side fate has given him an asset with the right resources to help him obtain the doomsday device, but on the other hand Malone is a former friend who betrayed him in a "business" venture in Cleveland, Ohio. Carjack and his team aid Plissken in his quest after our crafty protagonist falsely promises a large sum of money to his former ally. After fleeing the facility in a helicopter set ablaze with the Sword of Damocles in hand, Snake reaches the check point with barley moments to spare. Plissken's superiors laugh as he anxiously demands the antidote to the

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deadly virus which has waged war with his body. The head of the United States Police Force soon elaborates on their humor. Plutoxin 7 is a virus but it is not a deadly engineered weapon but simply a fast acting case of influenza. The President now holds the doomsday device about to use it against a mobilized attack force in route to US territory. He soon realizes the controller is a forgery, which prompts him to order the immediate execution of Snake Plissken. However one issue remains, the man with little to say is not really present at all, his image is being projected using holographic technology. When a search and destroy operation is ordered, the cunning Plissken decides to use the device as a means of dominance. After a few minutes of failed negotiations he enters in the world code to permanently disable every power source on the planet, rendering all modern technology useless. A cry of "for god sakes don't do it snake," is desperately uttered from the head of the USPF as he pushes the button, a grin emerges followed by the words "The names Plissken!" As the satisfied anti-hero limps away, he spots a pleasure lying amongst the tall grass which he has been longing for throughout the course of Escape from LA, a cigarette.

In the end Plissken has the last laugh as his goal for solitude and freedom has reached an ultimate conclusion. He overcame his obstacle by saving his life while preventing world war three. Although the horrible event was averted, the silent man has doomed man kind to repeat history as they must rebuild their entire technological infrastructure once more. One lesson S. D. Bob Plissken can teach all those who learn of his valiant struggles is simply this, life is full of obstacles which must be defeated through sheer determination which, in the end, yields its rewards. In the case of Snake in Escape from L.A. His reward is the satisfaction of deceiving his adversaries and regaining his freedom but more importantly savoring one American Spirit cigarette.

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